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- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: METHOD FOR STIMULATING HUMAN HAIR GROWTH

(57) Abstract: A method for stimulating hair growth is disclosed which comprises a two-step method. The first step is to stimulate the scalp of a human head by use of a brush or the like which is believed to increase the blood flow to the hair follicle region beneath the scalp. The second step is to apply a hair nutrient containing pomade or lotion to the scalp surface. The combination of scalp stimulation and hair nutrient application encourages the growth of hair from previously dormant hair follicles.

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METHOD FOR STIMULATING HUMAN HAIR GROWTH

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Background of the Invention

Numerous attempts and inventions have been contrived in the prior art with the single purpose of inducing human hair to grow from the scalp of bald or balding men. These concepts have run the gamut from placing either mechanical or electrical devices to cover the scalp area to pharmaceutical topical cremes. Many of the concepts have provided no benefit while others have had limited or marginal success.

20 Description of the Invention

Limited or reduced hair growth on the scalp is a result of insufficient blood flowing to the hair follicle region located below the scalp area. The diminished blood flow reduces the amount of oxygen which is provided to hair follicles, which in turn reduces the follicles' ability to produce hair. Eventually, the diminished blood flow results in dormancy of the hair follicle and

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associated hair loss.

My invention is a method for stimulating hair growth by increasing the blood flow, and therefore increased oxygen to the hair follicle region and providing a topical hair treatment having hair growth inducing nutrients, such as Vitamin E. My method
5 comprises two steps.

The first step is stimulation of the scalp. This can be accomplished by application of direct pressure from a person's finger tips, palms of the hand or even from brushes or combs.
10 Preferably, a brush or comb is used to contact the scalp surface. The brush or comb is comprised of bristles or teeth which are made of a plastic material which is somewhat flexible but resilient. The purpose behind scalp stimulation is to enhance or to increase the flow of blood to the region of the scalp having dormant hair
15 follicles.

Stimulation of the scalp region is somewhat difficult to quantify. Depending on the individual, stimulation required would vary and depend upon whether one is using their own fingers, hands or using a brush or comb and the amount of pressure or force
20 applied to the scalp surface. The preferable method is to use a brush with bristles. By way of example, positive results have been obtained from scalp stimulation twice per day, using a minimum of 21 strokes for each stimulation.

Once the scalp is stimulated, and the blood flow has been
25 increased to the dormant hair follicle region, the second step

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comprises the application of a hair nutrient formula or composition to the scalp surface. It is believed that the increased blood flow and the presence of hair nutrients, combine to provide a conducive environment for hair follicles to again become active and grow hair.

The hair nutrient formula is preferably composed of natural ingredients in a pomade form which include lanolin, petrolatum, jojoba oil, and mineral oil. Conceivably, present pharmaceutical formulas, although not having been tested, may also be used with this method to promote hair growth. The composition of the hair nutrient formula is preferably in a pomade form although lotion, cremes and liquid consistencies may be used. By way of example, the following formula is used to achieve a pomade consistency:

1. Petrolatum 57%
2. Anhydrous Lanolin, USP 10%
3. Mineral Oil 15%
4. Jojoba Oil 5% DRAFT
5. Castor Oil 3%
6. Lanolin Oil 2%
7. Paraffin Wax 2%
8. Meadowfoam Seed Oil 2%
9. Oleth-5 1%
10. Vitamin E 1%
11. BHT <1%

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12. Fragrance <1%

Various other combinations of ingredients can be made into pomade form which could include nutrients such as Polysorbate 80, wheat amino acids, keratin amino acids and silk amino acids. It is to be understood that the amount or percentage of nutrients used in any nutrient formula is not critical so long as a sufficient amount of nutrient is present which can nourish revitalized hair follicles.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The method therefore, comprises scalp stimulation and thereafter, application of a topical hair nutrient formula. The scalp stimulation step can be accomplished by either finger massage, palm massage, or brushing the scalp surface with the flexible bristles of a brush or the soft teeth of a comb. This stimulation step is continued for a sufficient period to induce blood flow to the hair follicle region. A scalp stimulation period which is too short, will have little or no effect on hair growth, while an extended period of scalp stimulation should provide a benefit so long as the scalp surface is not damaged by excessive brush strokes or excessive force applied.

Scalp stimulation can be defined as a physical application such as movement of fingers, palm of the hand, teeth of a comb, or bristles of a brush to the scalp surface which is limited in force

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so as not to damage the skin or cause bleeding, while still being of sufficient stimulation force to induce or increase blood flow to the hair follicle region beneath the scalp. Preferably, scalp stimulation is accomplished by using a bristled brush being stroked
5 across the scalp. The bristles of the brush are preferably, resilient, but rather firm, plastic material.

The application of the topical hair nutrient formula should follow closely after completion of scalp stimulation. The pomade is applied to the scalp surface and onto any hair which might be
10 growing from the scalp. A comb or brush can be used to comb the growing hair as desired.

My scalp stimulation and topical hair treatment method is preferably performed twice a day; once in the morning and once in the evening. Individuals may observe different results if the
15 treatment is used only once or more than twice per day. However, the number of times to stimulate the scalp each day may differ from individual to individual. What is to be kept in mind as the essence of my invention is a method of increasing blood flow to the hair follicle region by stimulation of the scalp surface and
20 thereafter providing the necessary hair nutrients for hair follicles to once again grow hair.

I CLAIM:

1. A method for stimulating hair growth on a human scalp comprising the steps of:

a) stimulating the scalp surface to induce an increased flow of blood to the hair follicle region; and

b) applying a hair-nutrient containing pomade to the scalp surface following scalp stimulation.

2. The method of claim 1 which is repeated at least once per day.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said stimulating of the scalp surface is accomplished by providing a brush having bristles and stroking said bristles across said scalp surface.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said stimulating of the scalp surface is accomplished by providing a comb having teeth and stroking said teeth across said scalp surface.

5. A method for stimulating hair growth on a human scalp comprising the steps of:

a) stimulating the scalp surface to induce an increased flow of blood to the hair follicle region; and

b) applying a hair-nutrient containing composition to the scalp surface following scalp stimulation.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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Y	US 4 211 217 A (GUERET JEAN-LOUIS H) 8 July 1980 (1980-07-08) column 2, line 11 - line 22 claim 1	1-5
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A	GB 1 171 747 A (JOHN CAMERON RANKIN) 26 November 1969 (1969-11-26) page 1, line 15 - line 36 -/-	1-5

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

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- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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- *G* document member of the same patent family

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